

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-22 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3 for minor details. It is Applicant's position that the changes to the claims do not materially alter the scope of the claims and do not present any new issues. Applicant has also attached Annex A1, which includes a marked up version of the Figure of Koppelkamm et al. for explanatory purposes only.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for speaking with Applicant's representative on August 25, 2008. During the interview, Applicant's representative argued that none of the cited references, particularly Koppelkamm et al., Jahn and Heimlicher, disclose moving a roller in a direction tangential to an outer surface of a second mating roller. Applicant's representative explained that Koppelkamm et al., Jahn and Heimlicher merely disclose rollers that moved in a circumferential direction of an outer surface of a second mating roller, but none of the rollers are moved in a tangential direction as claimed. The Examiner agreed with Applicant's representative's arguments and stated that the cited references do not appear to disclose moving a roller in a tangential direction as claimed.

Claims 1-7, 19 and 20 have been objected to because of minor informalities.

Applicant has amended claim 1 paying close attention to the Examiner's remarks. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims.

Claims 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Office Action states that the limitations in claim 8 of "guiding the roller in the circumferential direction" and "moving the roller in a direction tangential . . ." appear to define the same process. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 8 clearly provides two steps. One step is moving the roller in a circumferential direction of the second mating roller and another step is moving the roller in a tangential direction of the second mating roller. The movement in the direction tangent to an outer surface of the second mating roller refers to the transverse adjustment as shown in Figure 1. As such, it is Applicant's position that the claims are clear and satisfy the requirements of the statute. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 12 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koppelkamm et al. (U.S. 5,806,428).

The present invention relates to a process and a device for engaging and/or disengaging a roller with or from a first mating cylinder wherein the roller is engaged with a second mating cylinder. The device includes a feed unit which is positionable in a bisecting line position of a bisecting line that bisects an angle between the first mating cylinder and the second mating cylinder. The device also includes a basic unit, with which the roller can be moved to or away from the first mating cylinder in a circumferential direction of the second mating cylinder. The basic unit is adjustable in position for moving the roller in a direction parallel to a tangential direction of the second mating cylinder. This advantageously allows the roller 1 (application roller or inking roller) to be engaged from and disengaged from the cylinder 3 while staying wet. This advantageously allows inking to be maintained so that roller does not dry up since

the circumferential movement of roller 1 allows it to be maintained in contact with roller 4. However, in addition to this, it is possible to adjust the position of the roller 1 in a tangential direction (namely a direction parallel to the tangent of roller 4 - the second mating roller). This advantageously allows the nip distribution to be changed so that a greater nip width between one of the first mating cylinder and the roller or between the second mating cylinder and the roller can be provided. The prior art as a whole fails to disclose such features or such drying out preventing advantages.

Koppelkamm et al. discloses an inking unit with plural inking rollers mounted to a frame and spaced away from each other. A transfer roller is mounted between the two inking rollers. The transfer roller can be pivoted into and out of an operating position between the inking rollers. Since the transfer roller is in contact with the inking roller 6 throughout the pivoting movement, the transfer roller 7 moves in a circumferential direction of the roller 6.

Koppelkamm et al. fails to teach and fails to suggest the combination of a feed unit that is positionable in a bisecting line position with a rotational axis of a roller mounted on a bisecting line that bisects an angle between a first mating cylinder and a second mating cylinder. The Office Action takes the position that Koppelkamm et al. teaches a feed unit that bisects an angle between a first mating cylinder and a second mating cylinder. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant has attached Annex A1, which is an annotated version of the Figure of Koppelkamm et al. Angle A shown in Annex A1 is the angle defined between the bisecting line C and the roller 5 and angle B is the angle defined between the bisecting line C and the roller 6. Annex A1 clearly shows that the angle B is essentially 90° and angle A is an angle less than

90°. As such, Koppelkamm et al. does not disclose a feed unit that bisects an angle between roller 5 and roller 6 since angle A is less than angle B as clearly shown in the attached Annex A1. Compared with Koppelkamm et al., the feed unit of the present invention bisects an angle between a first mating cylinder and a second mating cylinder. This advantageously ensures that the engaging pressure provided by the feed unit acts approximately uniformly on the two mating cylinders. This advantageously allows the nip ratio between the mating cylinders to be approximately equal. Koppelkamm et al. fails to disclose such uniform pressure advantages since Koppelkamm et al. fails to teach or suggest the combination of a feed unit that bisects an angle between two mating cylinders as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection since the prior art as a whole fails to disclose important features of the claimed combination.

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heimlicher (U.S. 3,934,508).

Heimlicher discloses a printing press with a roller adjustment apparatus. The basic roller arrangement includes a plate cylinder 1 with a printing plate 2, a hard surface roller 5 and a soft surface inking roller 6. The plate cylinder 4 rotates about a central axis but also has an eccentric bearing bush 4 allowing a varying in position of the plate cylinder 1. The roller 5 has an axle 10. The inking roller 6 is connected by a mechanism that includes a slide lever 9. This allows movement driven by a working cylinder (movement drive). Based on this arrangement the inking roller 6 can move about the roller 5, while being maintained in contact with the roller 5 (moving in a circumferential direction). The sliding nature of the central axis of the inking

roller 6 also allows the inking roller to be disengaged from the roller 5 (see Figure 4).

Heimlicher fails to teach or suggest the combination of moving a roller in a direction tangential to an outer surface of a second mating roller (namely in a direction parallel to the tangent line of the mating roller). Heimlicher merely discloses a roller 6 that is moved in a circumferential direction of roller 5 via pivoting at pivot 10 or moving the roller 6 radially in a slide direction along a slide path provided by a lever 9. However, the roller 6 does not move in a tangential direction of a second mating roller as claimed. Compared with Heimlicher, the roller 1 of the present invention is engaged from and disengaged from a first cylinder 3 while staying wet. This advantageously prevents the roller from drying up since the circumferential movement of the roller 1 maintains contact with roller 4. The fact that the roller moves in a tangential direction of the second cylinder is significant in the present invention because it allows the nip distribution to be changed. Heimlicher fails to teach or suggest such nip distribution changing advantages since Heimlicher only discloses a roller 6 that is moved in a circumferential direction of a roller or that is moved in a radial direction, but is void of any teaching or suggestion that the roller 6 moves in a tangential direction as claimed. As such, the prior art as a whole takes a completely different approach and fails to disclose important features of the claimed combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection and favorably consider claims 1, 8 and 11 as presented and all claims that respectively depend thereon.

Claims 8-12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jahn (U.S. 5,081,927).

Jahn discloses an offset rotary printing press which includes a plate cylinder 1, a rubber-covered cylinder 2 and an impression cylinder 3. The three cylinders 1, 2 and 3 respectively have shafts 1', 2' and 3'. A ring is assigned to the shaft 2' of the cylinder 2 and is turnably mounted thereon. The ring 4 is formed with an insert channel 5 and is turnable by means of a control rod 7. A roller 8, which is under the loading of a spring 9, is supported on the circumferential surface of the ring 4. The direction of application of the spring lies on a bisector h of an angle α included between planes in which the three shafts 1', 2' and 3' are disposed. Bracing or support stops 10 and 11 are assigned to the ring 4. The support stop 10, fixed with respect to the cylinder 2 and ring 4, cooperates with the insert channel 5 and has a circumference matching the latter. The other support stop 11 cooperates with the continuous outer circumferential surface of the ring 4 and is engageable and disengageable on a straight connecting line L1-L1 extending between the shaft 1' and the shaft 2', by being disposed on one arm of a bellcrank 12, which is mounted in a fixed shoe 13 and is swivellable via a pneumatic cylinder 14 having a piston 14' therein which engages another arm of the bellcrank 12. If the stop 11 is displaced in the direction of the arrow x (Figure 3) by the actuation of the pneumatic cylinder 13, the cylinder 2 then disengages from the cylinder 1 with the formation of a respective gap s_2 therebetween. Subsequent turning of the ring 4 by the actuation of the control rod 7 until the operating phase shown in Figure 5 is reached results in entry of the stop 10 into the insert channel 5. The force of the spring 9 displaces the shaft 2' of the cylinder 2 in such a manner that there is also a disengagement motion with respect to the impression cylinder 3, a gap s_3 being formed between both cylinders 2 and 3.

Jahn fails to teach and fails to suggest the combination of moving a roller in a direction tangent to an outer surface of a second mating roller. At most, Jahn discloses actuating a control 7 such that a ring 4 is turned to a position shown in Figure 4 wherein the cylinder 2 remains in engagement with a plate cylinder 1 and only a disengagement motion of the cylinder 2 with respect to an impression cylinder 3 results to form a gap s3. However, Figures 1 and 4 of Jahn clearly show that the disengagement motion of the cylinder 2 is only in the circumferential direction of plate cylinder 1. Figures 1 and 4 of Jahn do not show that the cylinder 2 moves in a direction that is tangent to an outer surface of the plate cylinder 1 as claimed. Compared with Jahn, the roller of the present invention moves in a circumferential direction of a second mating roller when the roller is in contact with the second mating roller. The roller of the present invention also moves in a tangential direction of an outer surface of the second mating roller. The fact that the roller moves in a tangential direction of the second mating roller is significant in the present invention because it advantageously allows the roller to provide a greater nip width between one of the first mating cylinder and the roller or between the second mating cylinder and the roller. Jahn fails to disclose such nip width changing advantages since Jahn only discloses a roller 2 that moves in a circumferential direction of roller 1, but fails to move in a direction that is tangent to an outer surface of roller 1 as claimed. As such, the prior art as a whole fails to disclose important features of the claimed combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection and favorably consider claim 8 as presented and all claims that depend thereon.

Further and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
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Enclosed: Annex A1

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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-
0410.

Annex A1

